

Explore the lived experience of Dementia Friends Champions: Poetic representation

The research aims to bring an original contribution by exploring the lived experience of volunteer Dementia Friends Champions, to promote social action, develop the dementia friends provision and promote inclusion for individuals living with dementia.

There are 850,000 people with Dementia in the UK, with numbers set to rise to over 1 million by 2025. This will soar to 2 million by 2051 (Alzheimer's Research UK, 2017)

Champion

Dementia Friends Champions (DFC's) are volunteers who deliver information sessions about the impact of dementia with the aim of turning understanding into action (Alzheimer's Society, 2017).

*"A great poem
can move you,
shake you,
and remind you
what it is to be human"
(unknown author)*



Into her past

*The present was gone
Drawing me into her past
When she was a teenager
I became her neighbour
In a little village
In the west of Ireland*

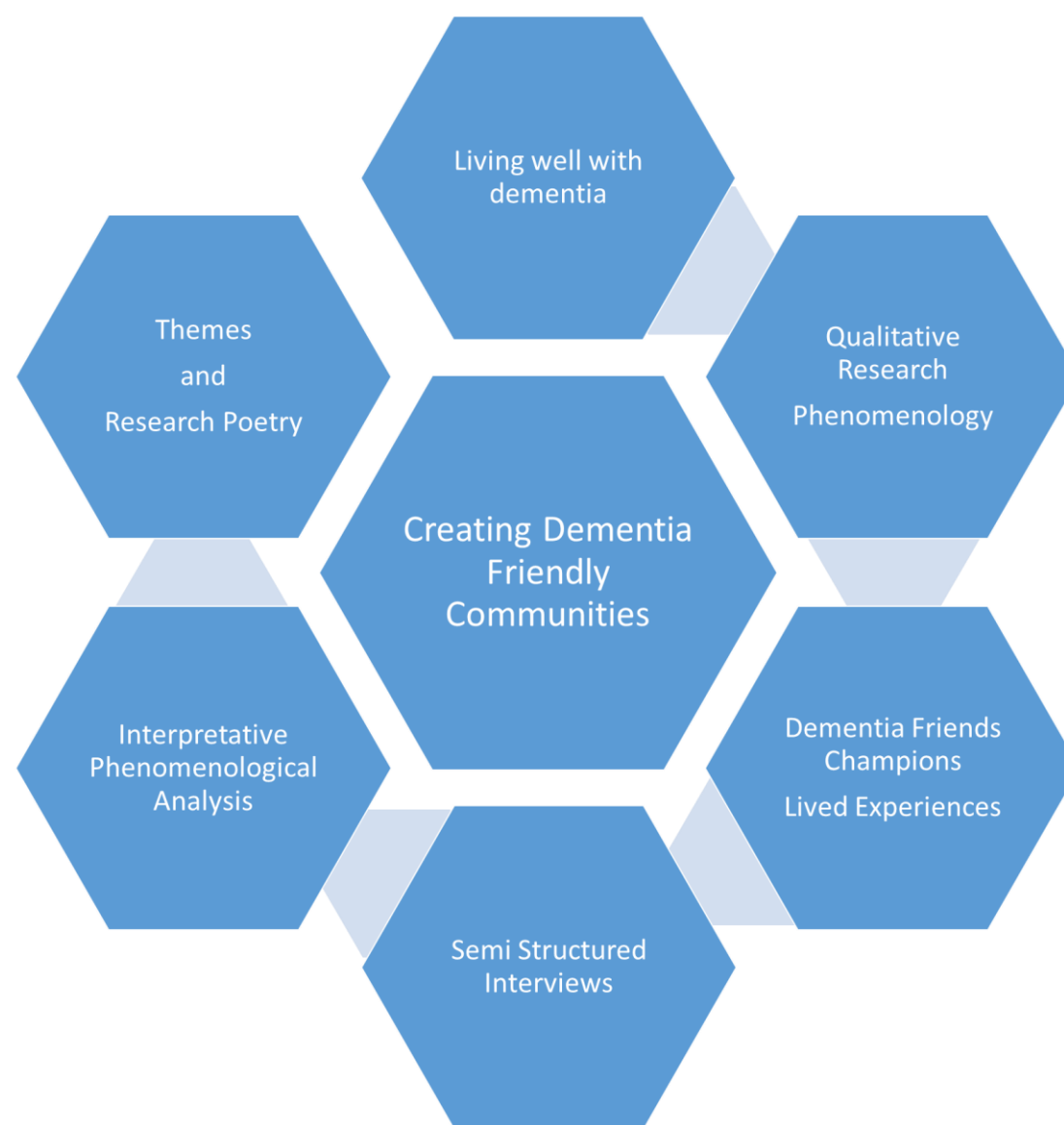
Sandie Woods

Patience

*You don't need to fear
Be patient, listen and care
She has dementia*

Sandie Woods

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As memories fall away

*Just remember this
As memories fall away
What he feels will stay*

Sandie Woods



**What's
Your
Story?**

More broadly we want a society where the public thinks and feels differently about dementia, where there is less fear, stigma and discrimination; and more understanding (Department of Health, 2015)

References

Alzheimer's Research UK (2017) *Dementia Statistics*.
<https://www.dementiastatistics.org/statistics-about-dementia/>

Alzheimer's Society (2017) *What is a dementia friends champion?*
<https://www.dementiafriends.org.uk/WEBArticle?page=what-is-a-champion#.WS6j3sa1vIU>

Department of Health (2015) *Prime Ministers challenge on dementia 2020*.
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